

## **Title: Part D plan offerings for 2006**

**ISSUE:** On January 1, 2006, Medicare began covering outpatient prescription drugs through its Part D program. Part D uses private stand-alone prescription drug plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans (MA-PDs) to deliver a standard benefit or actuarially equivalent basic coverage and, in some plans, enhanced (supplemental) benefits. Part D's open enrollment period began on November 15, 2005 and continues until May 15, 2006.

**KEY POINTS: :** Although final enrollment and claims information will not be available in time to prepare MedPAC's June Report to the Congress, staff have prepared a preliminary analysis of Part D benefit offerings for 2006.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide comments on the scope and substance of this analysis for the June 2006 report.

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